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confine himself to the study of Rocky Mountain forms, but includes the Acridians of the whole of North America. It is preceded by an introductory statement of the external and internal structure of insects of this group, with especial reference to parts used in description; by an exposition of the author's idea of classification and by notes on the geographical distribution of the genera and species. In the body of the work one hundred and twenty species and twenty-five genera of U. S. Acridians are described; forty species and four genera as new. In the second part, the extra-limital species are described, but no new species are mentioned; and nearly all the descriptions, as well as many of those in the first part, are borrowed; it would have been well if the author had appended the describers' names. The work is accompanied by a well executed plate (none too large) in which, strange to say, nearly one-third of the figures are of European species,—copied from Fischer's work; surely, from the abundant material in the author's possession, suitable specimens could have been found for illustration.

BRITISH MARINE SEAWEEDS.*—This is a convenient little book, of which four parts have already appeared, and five or six are to follow. Mr. Grattan, whose home is at Torquay in Devonshire, a place famous in the history of British natural history, is a thorough enthusiast in seaweeds, and finding that the standard treatises on them were too scientific for the use of ordinary amateurs, and withal quite expensive, he has prepared this work, which is so simple that the most inexperienced student can readily understand it, while the price, sixpence sterling for each part, is moderate enough. Since a very large proportion of our New England algæ consists of species occurring on the shores of Great Britain, and since Harvey's *Nereis*, the only work on the algæ of the United States, is costly and not suited to the needs of amateurs, this book will be very useful to those who not only collect, but desire to know something about seaweeds and sea-mosses.—
DANIEL C. EATON.

LUBBOCK'S MONOGRAPH OF THE PODURÆ.—Sir. John Lubbock has recently published a "Monograph of the Collembola and Thysanura." It forms a volume, in octavo, of the Ray Society. The

* British Marine Algæ: being a popular account of the Seaweeds of Great Britain, their collection and preservation. Illustrated. By W. H. Grattan. London: "The Bazaar" office, 32 Wellington street, Strand, W. C.

work is beautifully, indeed lavishly, illustrated with seventy-eight plates, of which thirty-one are colored, nearly every plate representing a distinct species highly magnified. The work will commend itself to microscopists, as it is accompanied by an essay, by Mr. Joseph Beck, on the scales of certain *Poduræ*, with figures of the scales highly magnified.

BOTANY.

IRRITABILITY OF THE LEAVES OF THE SUNDEW.—In our last number attention was called to the old observations of Roth respecting the irritability of *Drosera* leaves. It will be interesting to our readers to glance at a short abstract of Roth's treatise.*

The author begins by referring to the difficulty of drawing any line of demarcation between animals and plants. Some plants were believed, by the ancient philosophers, to possess a soul, since they appear to share with animals a kind of sensitiveness and motion. The word *sensitiveness* is, on some accounts, objectionable and it may be better, therefore, to employ the term *irritability*. A few plants possess this irritability in a high degree, but may we not ascribe to others, irritability less in degree? The author next refers to the kindred plants *Dionæa muscipula* and *Drosera*, intimating that the latter has, in a slight degree, the kind of irritability which characterizes the flytrap. He then describes the action of *Dionæa* in catching insects, and proceeds to give an account of the two more common species of sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia* and *longifolia*.

In July, 1779, while on a botanical excursion, Roth observed that some leaves of both species of *Drosera* had closed. Upon separating the infolded surfaces, he discovered dead insects, whereupon he asked himself whether sundew did not act just as *Dionæa* does. He transferred healthy plants to his house and proceeded to make the following experiments:—

1st. He placed, by a pair of pincers, an ant on the open leaf of *Drosera rotundifolia*. As soon as the ant tried to recover its freedom, the hairs of the leaf turned towards his body, and the edges of the leaf rolled over towards him. In a few minutes the ant was

*Von der Reizbarkeit der Blätter des sogenannten Sonnenthaues (*Drosera rotundifolia*, *longifolia*.) Beyträge zur Botanik, Erster theil. s. 60. Von Albrecht Wilhelm Roth. Bremen, 1782. On the Irritability of the Leaves of the so-called Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). p. 60. By Albrecht Wilhelm Roth. 1782.